



# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

Office of Communications

300 Park Avenue, Suite 303 East  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
[www.fallschurchva.gov/News](http://www.fallschurchva.gov/News)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MEDIA CONTACTS

Susan Finarelli or Amy Betor  
[publicinfo@fallschurchva.gov](mailto:publicinfo@fallschurchva.gov)  
703-248-5003

## NEWS RELEASE

### City of Falls Church Water Utility Celebrates Drinking Water Week 2013

The City of Falls Church Water Utility and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) kicked off Drinking Water Week 2013 across North America today by asking the question “What do you know about H<sub>2</sub>O?”

Throughout the week, the water utility community will celebrate water by recognizing the essential role drinking it plays in our daily lives, with special attention on the ways in which all water consumers can get to know their H<sub>2</sub>O.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prescribes limits on the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

After water enters a home, conditions in the home plumbing system can affect the water's quality. To assist homeowners, AWWA has provided these top tips for maintaining water quality at home:

1. Clean faucets and aerators regularly
2. Clean and disinfect sinks and drains regularly
3. Keep drains clear and unclogged
4. Use cold water for drinking and preparing food
5. Replace old plumbing and install certified “lead free” fixtures
6. Flush cold water taps after household plumbing work or when the water hasn't been used for several days
7. Drain and flush your hot water heater annually
8. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the water heater, filters, treatment devices, softeners and any other products attached to the water system
9. Do not connect hoses or other devices intended for non-drinking purposes to household drinking water faucets

10. Keep hazardous chemicals and unsanitary materials away from drinking water faucets

For more information on the City's drinking water, please check out the City's 2011 Annual Water Utility Report: [www.fallschurchva.gov/WaterQuality](http://www.fallschurchva.gov/WaterQuality).

#### **About Drinking Water Week**

For more than 35 years, AWWA and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Additional information about Drinking Water Week, including free materials for download, is available on the Drinking Water Week web page.

#### **About the American Water Works Association (AWWA)**

Founded in 1881, the American Water Works Association is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational society committed to the safety and improvement of water quality and supply. Focusing its work in four strategic areas, Knowledge Creation and Exchange, Leadership and Advocacy, Member Engagement and Development, and Organizational Stewardship, AWWA unites the full spectrum of the water community to advance water management, education and science and to advocate for smart water policies.

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